



West Dowling Road Connection Project Agency Meeting

HDR Alaska, Inc.

Thursday, December 15, 2005, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Minutes

Attendees

Miriam McCulloch (DOT&PF), Edrie Vinson (FHWA), Dan Simpson (HDR), Lance DeBernardi (HDR), John McPherson (HDR), Laurie Cummings (HDR), Sirena Brownlee (HDR), Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes (Corps of Engineers), Heather Dean (EPA), Ed Weiss (DNR-OHMP), Thede Tobish (MOA Planning), Karen Keesecker (MOA Planning), and Lance Wilbur (MOA Traffic).

Introductions

Dan Simpson of HDR welcomed participants and everyone introduced themselves around the table.

Presentation

An overview of the project history, purpose and need, context and constraints was provided by John McPherson. Next, he discussed the four original corridor concepts and explained why two concepts (Raspberry-Dowling and the S Curve) were not being considered for further study.

Dan Simpson discussed how the remaining two concepts evolved into three alternatives: Rovenna, Frontage Road, and Rovenna Frontage.

The next topic was Tina Lake. Dan spoke to Tina Lake's hydrology and the results of the water quality sampling. John then discussed Tina Lake's wetlands.

Discussion

John then opened the meeting for discussion.

- Lance Wilbur commented that there was a historic junkyard/wrecking yard in the NW vicinity of Tina Lake
- Thede Tobish mentioned that Tina Lake used to drain eastwards towards C Street. He thought the recent C Street construction has changed the drainage pattern. Dan Simpson said that the hydraulic investigation showed that that pattern was true after a ditch was constructed some time between 1950 and 1959.
- Thede also noted that Tina Lake has had more disturbance but is basically unchanged
- Ed Weiss asked if any fish studies have been done. There could be fish in Tina Lake but it is unlikely. HDR committed to doing a fish survey. Agencies will want to know what species are present in Tina Lake before finalizing recommendations regarding what needs to be minimized or mitigated. He recognized that there is a need to provide alternative public access to the

lake if the project takes up the section line easement. Dan Simpson noted there would be sidewalks.

- Theede commented that for a USACE permit, alternative designs will need to be considered.
- Dan asked if porous fill would be an option. Heather Dean replied probably not due to the fragmentation of the lake. It would be better to shift the alignment to one side.
- Questions were raised regarding the depth of the lake. The lake depth is unknown. HDR committed to getting soundings/water depths.
- Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes mentioned that the north side of Tina Lake is already more impacted so shifting to the north would be preferred. HDR committed to exploring alternatives that moved the alignment north from the lake's center.
- Dan Simpson asked about appropriate road embankment slope treatments into the water. If the designers reduce the footprint with a sheet pile or rip rap treatment would that be considered less impactful than a treatment more like the existing shoreline. A comment was made that the best treatment might be to combine both elements. Another comment was made that trying to create existing shoreline may unacceptably reduce the lake surface area. No decisions were made.
- It was requested that copies of the PJD and Bird Survey Report be sent to the agencies.
- Ed mentioned that proposing lake clean up would be looked upon favorably. Miriam and Heather wondered how that could even be done.
- John McPherson suggested purchasing land to the north would place the wetlands in public ownership and increase their visibility. The road would act as a buffer and may help prevent further impacts from the adjacent industrial properties.
- Mary Lee commented that the standpipe for Tina Lake has structural issues resulting in the lake level being lower than what it should be. This should be fixed as part of the project. Mary Lee suggested that raising the lake level would impact more wetlands. John questioned the logic.
- John suggested the possibility of creating a separated pathway to the south of Tina Lake to minimize the width on the north side.

Action Items

- HDR to coordinate with DNR-OHMP regarding fish survey
- Determine if DOT&PF can condemn land for wetland mitigation
- Investigate lake depth
- Follow-up meeting tentatively scheduled for January 10, 2006 at 1:30.